

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-11
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
/139 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA:CCFLOWERREE:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:LBRECKON
IO:DMACUK
EUR/RPM:AKORKY
PM/DCA:CMARTHINSEN (SUBS)
-----056480 280043Z /63

O R 280025Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 050653

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:SCHEDULING OF NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING

REF: USUN 668

IN VIEW OF CHANGE OF DATE FOR BEGINNING OF PREPCOM V FROM
APRIL 10 TO APRIL 4, POSSIBLE DATES FOR SPRING NATO
DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING SEEM TO COME DOWN TO WEEK
BEFORE EASTER OR SHORTLY AFTER APRIL 21 CLOSING DATE FOR
PREPCOM V.

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2. OF THE TWO, WE WOULD PREFER THE LATER PERIOD. SINCE
THE EXPERTS MEETING WILL BE HEAVILY FOCUSED ON SSOD,
WE BELIEVE THAT FACTORS RELATED TO SSOD SHOULD BE
GOVERNING. WE AGREE WITH US PREPCOM DEL'S ASSESSMENT THAT
BARTON GROUP MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 30
WOULD BE MORE USEFUL FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SSOD
DRAFTS THAN EARLY NATO EXPERTS MEETING. WE ALSO AGREE

THAT NATO CONSULTATIONS BASED ON DRAFTS WHICH WILL EMERGE FROM PREPCOM V WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN DISCUSSION OF HEAVILY BRACKETED, UNASSIMILATED DRAFT WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM CURRENT PREPCOM. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT USG WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PRESENT VIEWS MUCH MORE DEFINITIVE THAN OUR

CURRENT VIEWS AT A MEETING THREE WEEKS HENCE. WE WILL BE WORKING INTENSIVELY IN THE INTERIM TO PREPARE FOR PREPCOM V AND WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DIVERT RESOURCES FOR A NATO DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY A BARTON GROUP MEETING.

3. AN ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF SCHEDULING AN EXPERTS MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PREPCOM V IS THE FACT THAT WITH THE NATURE OF THE ISSUES MORE CLEARLY DEFINED AND THE MORE ADVANCED STAGE OF PLANNING FOR THE SSOD WHICH WILL EXIST AT THAT TIME, THE EXPERTS WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ADVISE THE NAC ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE SSOD/NATO SUMMIT INTERFACE.

4. MISSION SHOULD DRAW ON ABOVE IN FEBRUARY 28 POLADS DISCUSSION OF NEXT DISARMAMENTS EXPERTS MEETING.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, ARMS, MEETINGS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTANTS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE050653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CCFLOWERREE:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780090-0734
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978023/aaaaabys.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9db1b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 668
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3526001
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHEDULING OF NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9db1b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014